

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Working in the communications industry and developing media training curriculum for our clients has allowed me access to detailed research regarding the current economic effect on various types of media, as well as the public's use of different mediums in recent history. The gist of this research shows that there has been a huge loss in numbers of overall publications due to the economic downturn, causing more limitations for watchdog journalists and some level of carelessness in journalism overall. Also, broadcast TV news from the major networks in particular is a more popular, and therefore important, source of information for the public than it ever has been before. The FCC has the responsibility to regulate how watered-down this medium becomes and it seems hard to believe that this information is not common knowledge to FCC members. It is also very suspect that the FCC is not showing common sense by defending their own rules regarding media ownership...particularly the ability of major networks to consolidate with each other and to consolidate with local newspapers. It's not just a matter of other outlets existing (cable channels and internet news), but how much they are utilized by the public and how accessible they are to the common person. Many people do not have cable television or internet access, so to consider those as factors in media diversity to the apparent degree that the FCC has chosen to, seems an obvious perversion of the facts. Please consider your power regarding this issue and do not let these rules fall by the wayside, because if you do rescind on this issue you have basically proven your own uselessness to the American people.